

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 VO-03 CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00 NSAE-00

PA-02 DRC-01 RSC-01 /014 W

----- 107446

R 181445Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1825

INFO USMISSION BERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 06155

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: CVIS, GE

SUBJECT: AMERICAN JOURNALISTS TRAVEL TO GDR

REF: STATE 075323

1. SURVEYED RAPIDLY BONN CORRESPONDENTS ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCE OVER THE PAST YEAR IN OBTAINING VISAS TO VISIT EAST GERMANY FOR JOURNALISTIC PURPOSES. BECAUSE OF ABSENCES FROM BONN, WE DID NOT CONTACT ALL THE PRINCIPAL CORRESPONDENTS.

2. WE SHOULD NOTE FIRST THAT FOR MANY YEARS EAST GERMAN AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN FORTHCOMING IN PROVIDING VISAS FOR VISITS TO THE FALL LEIPZIG FAIR AND TO THE BALTIC SEA WEEK AT ROSTOCK IN THE SPRING. AMERICAN JOURNALISTS IN BONN HAVE AVAILED THEMSELVES OF THIS POSSIBILITY FOR MANY YEARS.

3. CORRESPONDENTS FOR THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS HAVE NOT APPLIED FOR VISAS IN THE PAST YEAR OR 18 MONTHS: NEWSWEEK, WESTINGHOUSE BROADCASTING, CBS, US NEWS & WORLD REPORT (ITS CORRESPONDENT, ROBERT HAEGER, HAS VISITED THE LEIPZIG AND ROSTOCK EVENTS A NUMBER OF TIMES).

4. THE FOLLOWING HAVE EXPERIENCE WITH APPLICATIONS FOR TRAVEL TO EAST GERMANY IN 1973 AND 1974:

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NEW YORK TIMES' CRAIG WHITNEY APPLIED IN MAY 1973 AND RECEIVED A VISA FOR A VISIT IN NOVEMBER 1973, TO DO AN ARTICLE ON FAMOUS CHURCH ORGANS IN EAST GERMANY. HE HAS ASKED TO GO AGAIN THIS SPRING AND AGAIN IN THE SUMMER, HAS RECEIVED ENCOURAGEMENT BUT NO VISA AS YET.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR'S DAVID FRANCIS HAS RECEIVED VISA FOR A VISIT OF ABOUT TEN DAYS IN MAY. HE HAS BEEN INFORMED THE PROGRAM FOR HIS VISIT WILL BE DISCUSSED IN EAST BERLIN AT THE BEGINNING OF HIS VISIT.

WASHINGTON POST'S JOHN GOSHKO HAS NOT APPLIED AND HAS NO PLANS TO DO SO. DAN MORGAN OF THE POST VISITED EAST GERMANY LAST JUNE.

TIME MAGAZINE'S BRUCE NELAN VISITED EAST GERMANY WITH A VISA FOR TEN DAYS IN SEPTEMBER 1973, ALONG WITH BILL RADEMACHERS FROM TIME'S PARIS BUREAU, AND A PHOTOGRAPHER. NELAN HAS NOT REAPPLIED. THE THREE TIME STAFFERS EACH WERE ASSIGNED EAST GERMAN GUIDES.

BALTIMORE SUN'S GENE OISHI SPENT TEN DAYS IN EAST GERMANY IN LATE MAY - EARLY JUNE 1973. HE HAS NOT REAPPLIED FOR A GENERAL VISA, BUT HE HAS ASKED FOR PERMISSION TO SEE EAST GERMAN TRAINING OF TROOPS AND TO INTERVIEW A GENERAL. HE HAS RECEIVED NO REPLY TO THAT REQUEST.

ASSOCIATED PRESS BONN BUREAU STAFF HAS NOT BEEN TO EAST GERMANY; HERBERT ERB OF THE BERLIN BUREAU MADE A VISIT IN 1973; WE UNDERSTAND HE HAS MADE A NEW APPLICATION THIS YEAR.

CHICAGO TRIBUNE'S ALICE SIEGERT, AN FRG CITIZEN HAS MADE SOUNDINGS BUT DOES NOT WISH TO HAVE THE MANDATORY GUIDE-TRANSLATOR (CURRENT COST: DM 120 PER DAY) AND SO HAS NOT FORMALLY APPLIED. SHE HAS MADE VISITS TO LEIPZIG AND ROSTOCK.

ABC'S DON FARMER RECEIVED A VISA FOR HIMSELF AND A
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FILM CREW FOR THE LEIPZIG FAIR IN FALL 1973, BUT DID NOT GO BECAUSE ABC-NEW YORK DECIDED IT WASN'T INTERESTED. HE HAS NOT REAPPLIED.
HILLENBRAND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BONN06155
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740090-0623
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740434/aaaabedw.tel
Line Count: 111
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 075323
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <26 MAR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMERICAN JOURNALISTS TRAVEL TO GDR
TAGS: CVIS, GC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005